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-PHILIPPINES: BOMB EXPLODES NEAR U.S. EMBASSY; NO CASUALTIES

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[TEXT] MANILA, DEC 4 (AFP)--AN EXPLOSION ROCKED MANILA'S ERMITA TOURIST DISTRICT MONDAY EVENING, SOME 300 METERS (YARDS) FROM THE HEAVILY GUARDED U.S. EMBASSY COMPOUND, WITNESSES SAID. SEVERAL PATRONS AT A CHINESE RESTAURANT WERE INJURED BY FLYING GLASS FROM SHATTERED WINDOWS. THREE VEHICLES WERE ALSO DAMAGED, WITNESSES SAID.

POLICEMEN WITH PISTOLS AND RIFLES AT THE READY RUSHED TO THE SCENE. FIRST REPORTS FROM POLICE SAID A BOMB HAD APPARENTLY BEEN LEFT AT A CONSTRUCTION SITE JUST ACROSS THE ROAD FROM THE RESTAURANT.

EYEWITNESSES SAID THEY HAD SEEN A VEHICLE LEAVE THE SCENE OF THE EXPLOSION JUST BEFORE THE BLAST AT 7:50 PM (1150 GMT).

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